

From: Steve Paylor
To: Microsoft ATR
Date: 1/2/02 1:25pm
Subject: MICROSOFT SETTLEMENT

Dear Sir/Madam,

This is to state my opinion concerning the DOJ/Microsoft settlement.

First, I believe that the attack on Microsoft by the DOJ was very much politically motivated. I believe that the DOJ, under Janet Reno, was a political tool used by the Clinton administration to "pay back" those who did not adequately give support to the DNC or Clinton.

Second, I believe that in this case, the DOJ took sides in an ideological struggle between left wing socialists and free market capitalists.

Third, I believe that the case unfairly sided with Microsoft's competitors who are jealous of Microsoft's success. Microsoft should be completely free to include or exclude any and all features in their software products. If that makes it difficult for competitors to compete, that is tough. This is part of the free market system and it is the competitor's problem to solve not the DOJ's.

Finally, I believe that Microsoft did employ some anti-competitive business practices. I believe that the settlement adequately punishes them for that misbehavior and it also provides much social good.

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